

the WATER Connection

July 1999

On the water front



Why is Tucson Water asking us to conserve water while allowing more and more growth to take place? That's a question I hear a lot when talking to my friends and neighbors. As a water utility, it is Tucson Water's responsibility to supply water to customers and to help them use our available water wisely. We do not control who comes to Tucson or where they build. Decisions on growth must be made by the citizens through their political leaders.

Without the wise use of our renewable water resources, Colorado river water and reclaimed water, we cannot continue to meet the water demand of Tucson's current population without seriously impacting both our environment and our economy. The population of Tucson is larger than groundwater alone can sustain. We are already experiencing land subsidence, it's becoming more difficult to pump water from existing wells, and the deeper we go for groundwater, the lower the quality of the water we recover.

At the same time we're asking you to conserve, we're expanding our use of these renewable water resources. Volunteers in the Alandale neighborhood are using the new blend of recharged Colorado River water and groundwater that will eventually add billions of gallons a year to our water supply. And, we are delivering reclaimed water to the majority of golf courses and many parks within the Tucson Water service area and bringing new customers on-line every year.

Wise use of all our natural resources is an ethic that must be pursued. Conservation will always be important. It's the best way for individuals to make a positive difference in protecting our quality of life. To learn more, call our Conservation Office at 791-4556.

David V. Modeer
Director, Tucson Water

35+ sample locations around Tucson
**Try The New Tucson Water —
Tap Into The Future, Today!**

Tucson Water is delivering a new blend of recharged Colorado River water and groundwater to the Alandale neighborhood on Tucson's eastside. Now you can sample this same blended water and get a taste of what our future water supply will be like. Quench your thirst this summer at one of Tucson Water's 5-gallon water dispensers found at more than 35 locations around the city.

You can find the New Tucson Water at City Libraries, Neighborhood Centers, Council Member offices, and City Hall, Park Mall, and other locations around the city.

For a detailed list of locations, call Tucson Water at 791-4331 or check out our web site at <http://www.ci.tucson.az.us/water/ambassador>

Tucson Water Bonds Rated A Safe Investment

In order to fund improvements to its water system, the City of Tucson sells Water Revenue Bonds to investors from around the world. The money from the bond sales is like a long-term loan that the city pays back with interest. The latest sale, of \$33.4 million in bonds, received A1 and A+ ratings from the two most respected bond rating firms, Moody's and Standard and Poor's. These high ratings reflect the confidence of the financial community in Tucson Water's sound fiscal policies. High bond ratings translate into lower interest rates and long-term savings for rate-payers

Before You Plant, Get Some Water\$mart Information

2:00 pm-4:00 pm Irrigation Timer Use

Pima County Cooperative Extension
4210 N. Campbell, Tucson

August 7, 1999

8:30 am-10:30 am Mini-Oasis Plant Selection and Design

11:00 am-1:00 pm Irrigation Timer Use

2:00 pm-4:00 pm Drip Irrigation Design and Installation

Randolph Park Therapeutic Center
1000 S. Randolph Way, Tucson

August 28, 1999

9:00 am-11:00 am Mini-Oasis Plant Selection and Design

11:30 am-1:30 pm Drip Irrigation Design and Installation

2:30 pm-4:30 pm Irrigation Timer Use

Kirk-Bear Canyon Library
8959 E. Tanque Verde Rd., Tucson

Seating is limited at workshops and reservations are required. Reserve early to ensure a seat. Contact Tucson Water at 791-4331 for reservations.

The Saturday workshops are a joint program of the Pima County Cooperative Extension and Tucson Water.

Coliform Bacteria Testing Results

drinking, cooking and bathing.

What's a coliform, anyway?

Coliforms are bacteria which are not harmful themselves but may indicate the presence of other, potentially harmful bacteria.

Why should the chlorine level in my water matter to me?

Chlorine kills bacteria and germs that can grow in drinking water and prevents waterborne disease. Chlorine is the most widely used water disinfectant in North America. Tucson Water continually tests water at more than 240 locations to make sure chlorine levels stay within the target range.

Groundwater Quality Report

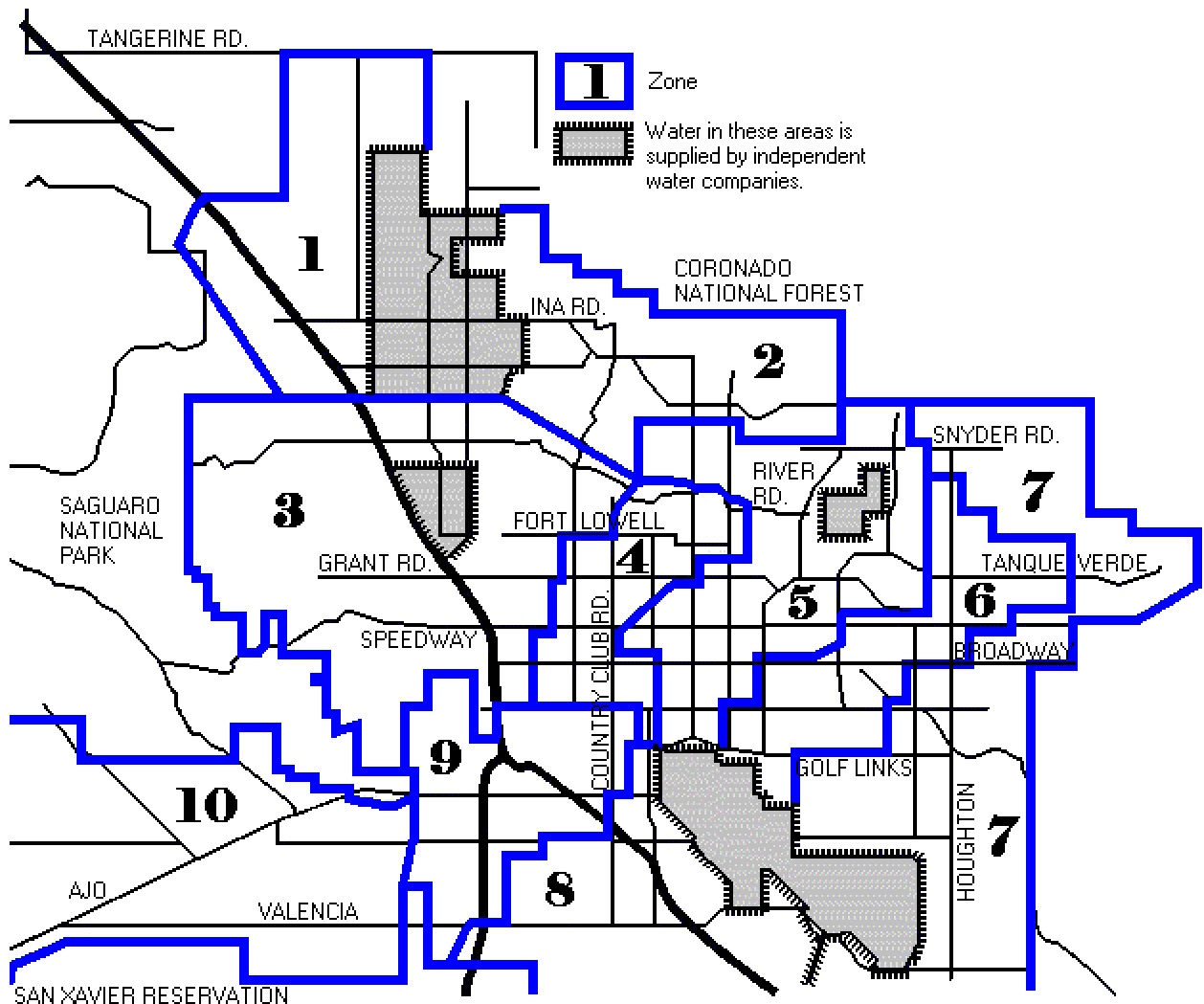
April 1999

Water Quality Zone		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	System Wide
Sodium	Average	50	38	56	35	33	33	29	42	50	40	40
	(ppm) Range	36-80	33-41	28-164	25-51	24-44	24-43	21-37	34-58	36-90	35-43	21-164
Mineral Content	Average	360	257	371	235	224	232	219	338	289	211	270
	(ppm) Range	182-534	244-309	156-767	188-365	163-269	178-272	155-278	254-483	207-511	207-214	155-767
Hardness	Average	165	111	163	103	96	104	101	170	110	75	118
	(ppm) Range	60-255	88-134	46-326	74-181	64-117	78-125	70-134	100-299	62-300	64-79	46-326
pH	Average	8.0	8.1	8.0	7.9	7.9	7.9	8.0	7.8	7.9	7.9	7.9
	(units) Range	7.6-8.5	7.7-8.3	7.4-9.9	7.6-8.1	7.0-8.2	7.1-8.4	7.1-8.4	7.6-8.0	7.6-8.3	7.6-8.2	7.0-9.9
Temperature	Average	73	75	74	78	76	75	74	77	80	79	76
	(deg F) Range	70-77	68-81	64-81	70-85	66-83	68-82	67-81	71-83	70-87	72-85	64-87

What does all this mean to me?

recommended an aesthetic standard of 500 ppm or less for mineral content in drinking water. **Hardness** measures the ease with which soap can be lathered. The softer water is, the more easily it produces a soap lather. Water hardness also determines the degree of water spotting on dishes, plumbing fixtures and bath areas. In addition, most home water conditioners are set based on the hardness of the water entering the home. For the most part, Tucson's groundwater is considered moderately hard.

pH. Swimming pool chemistry, some fish aquariums and ponds, and certain water conditioner systems require you to control the pH of the water. pH is a measurement of acidity. Waters with a pH below 7.0 are considered acidic. The federal secondary, or aesthetic, standard for pH is 6.5 to 8.5.



The information shown on this map was collected at 245 sampling points for sodium, mineral content, hardness, pH and temperature.



The Water Connection
is produced by Tucson Water.
To receive a copy, or to receive this
information in Spanish, call 791-4331
or mail your request to:
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City of Tucson
TTY number:
791-2639

Si usted desea este
documento escrito en
español, por favor, llame al
791-4331.